

**MINUTES OF  
YONKERS CITY SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING  
November 29, 2023**

The meeting was held at Yonkers Montessori Academy and was called to order by Jim Riley, Council President.

**Council Members Present:** James Riley (President), Peter Sieh, Nicole Taylor-Wernham, Carol Westphal, Alyssa Colon-Garcia, Don DeMatteo, Jesse Montero, Z Baird and Dr. Cynthia Palmer, *ex officio*.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting were approved.

**Reports:**

**Membership:** (Carol Westphal)

- Jim Riley reported membership expired on September 30, 2023 for Nicole Taylor-Wernham. She unanimously agreed to serve another term.
- The 2023-2024 Council Members List was updated to reflect membership expiration dates.

**Professional Development:**

• Library Services:

- October 23, 2023 – Carol Westphal attended a Zoom meeting with Christa Taylor to discuss the different libraries offered to our students and staff on SORA.
- October 24, 2023 – LMS attended a Zoom meeting facilitated by Crystal Ballad from Teaching Books.
- October 25, 2023 – Dr. Palmer led a Professional Development meeting for the LMS at Yonkers Montessori Academy. Various topics were covered.
- November 27, 2023 – Jim Riley presented Teaching Books to the Saunders HS English Department.
- Through the Smart Start Grant Jim Riley and students from Saunders HS visited the Croton Aqueduct. They used drones to prepare a Virtual Tour of the area.
- Jim Riley and Carol Westphal continue to attend the Dept. Rep. PLC's.
- Some of the Library staff will participate in Job Shadowing a certified SLMS.
- Dr. Palmer would like to have a monthly Library meeting for Library staff.

**Yonkers Public Library Report:**

- YPL received the Joseph Schubert Excellence Award for their Summer Reading Buddies Program, which trains volunteer mentors to read with children weekly.
- Nancy Moron, President of the YPL Board of Trustees, received the Velma K. Moore award for her exemplary contributions to library services.
- YPL received a \$25,000 grant from the NY State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) for Arts programming.
- All YPL branches have Winter Wonderland programs scheduled. Program details are available online.
- YPL invites all readers to join the Winter Reading Warm-up Challenge! The program runs from January 1, 2024-March 15, 2024. All readers will use Beanstack to log their books. For each book a patron logs they will be entered into a raffle for an Amazon gift card.
- Z Baird received the Heroes of Education Award.

- YPL suggested YPS meet through Zoom to discuss and plan Summer Reading 2024. Several meetings have been planned.

#### **Library Services Report:**

- Dr. Palmer requested the number of library applications sent from YPS for YPL cards. Jesse Montero will work on this data.
- Dr. Palmer will continue to focus on Professional Development for the LMS.
- The YPS School Choice Fair will take place on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at Saunders HS. Dr. Palmer and Carol Westphal will represent Library Services.
- Dr. Palmer will work with Saunders HS students to develop a new logo for Library Services.
- Dr. Palmer reported the Book Budget is available. LMS will create their book list in Follett Destiny.
- Dr. Palmer is looking for funding for Turn It In.

#### **Website:** (Don DeMatteo)

- Meet the Team has been updated on the District's Library Services webpage. It is missing one pic and one bio.
- We have lost the ability to share apps between sites.

#### **Old Business:**

- SORA – If a staff member needs an account, email Jim Riley

#### **New Business:**

- Send all student work for Scholastic Writing Award to Alyssa Colon-Garcia.
- If teachers need a classroom set of a particular book they can contact Alyssa Colon-Garcia to see if the book is available.

#### **Announcements:**

- Carol Westphal had 113 Yonkers Montessori Academy students participate in Summer reading 2023. Each student will receive a certificate.
- Nicole-Taylor Wernham is planning a Poetry Slam for the students in Yonkers M/HS poetry club. She is also looking into creating a Literary Magazine.
- Peter Sieh at Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School and Martin Luther King Jr. Academy and Carol Westphal at Yonkers Montessori Academy will join the Hour of Code movement as part of Computer Science Week (December 4-10, 2023). Students in all grades will learn about the importance of Computer Science and the basics of coding with blocks.
- Next meeting TBD.

#### **Motion to Adjourn:** Approved

#### **Minutes:** Respectfully submitted, Carol Westphal